

Support the Guardian

Fund the free press with \$5 per month

Support us

Print subscriptions

Newsletters

Sign in

[The Guardian - Back to home](#)[The Guardian](#)

- **News**
- **Opinion**
- **Sport**
- **Culture**
- **Lifestyle**

Show more

-



[View image in](#)

[fullscreen](#)

Jeffrey Epstein in an image released by the justice department. Photograph: Department of Justice/Anadolu via Getty Images

[Jeffrey Epstein](#)

US justice department has released less than 1% of Epstein files, filing reveals

Federal law required majority of documents to be released by 19 December, but only 125,575 pages have been published

[Richard Luscombe](#)

Tue 6 Jan 2026 09.54 EST

Share

The Department of Justice has released less than 1% of the so-called Epstein files, a court filing has revealed, as Democrats step up criticism of the [Trump administration](#)'s "lawlessness" for keeping records under seal.

The department conceded that only 12,285 documents, totalling 125,575 pages, relating to the disgraced financier and sex trafficker [Jeffrey Epstein](#) have been published to date, despite a federal law requiring the vast majority to be released by 19 December.

Pam Bondi, the US attorney general, wrote a [five-page update](#) to Paul Engelmayer, the federal New York judge overseeing the case, on Monday, asserting that efforts to protect the identities of Epstein's victims were a priority, and had slowed the process.

“There are more than two million documents potentially responsive to the Act that are in various phases of review,” she wrote in the letter co-signed by Todd Blanche, her deputy, and Jay Clayton, US attorney for the southern district of New York.

“This work has required and will continue to require substantial department resources.” She said about 400 justice department lawyers were supporting “efforts to comply”, along with 100 FBI document analysts trained in handling sensitive material.



Epstein disclosures raise key question: why wasn't he stopped earlier?
[Read more](#)

Democrats, however, remain determined to press the justice department over the Epstein documents despite other stories such as the capture by US forces of Venezuela's president, [Nicolás Maduro](#), dominating the news cycle.

“What are they trying to hide?” Chuck Schumer, the Senate minority leader, said in a [post to X](#) on Monday accusing the justice department of failing to submit a required unredacted list to Congress “of all government officials and politically exposed persons” named or referenced in the files.

“It’s been 17 DAYS since the Trump DOJ first broke the law and failed to release all the Epstein files. It’s been 14 DAYS since Trump’s DOJ released anything at all – with the DOJ doing everything in its power to delay and obfuscate.”

The releases so far, he said, were heavily redacted, and contained “none of the key documents, and no new information on the 10 alleged Epstein co-conspirators”.

He said: “The Trump DOJ’s lawlessness must stop. I will do everything in my power to ensure all the files come out.”

Blanche [insisted last week](#) that the department was committed to “transparency and protecting victims”, and that hundreds of people had sacrificed time over the holidays to work on the case.

“It truly is an all-hands-on-deck approach and we’re asking as many lawyers as possible to commit their time to review the documents that remain,” he said.

[skip past newsletter promotion](#)

Sign up to [This Week in Trumpland](#)

Free newsletter

A deep dive into the policies, controversies and oddities surrounding the Trump administration

Enter your email address

Marketing preferences

Get updates about our journalism and ways to support and enjoy our work.

Sign up

Privacy Notice: Newsletters may contain information about charities, online ads, and content funded by outside parties. If you do not have an account, we will create a guest account for you on theguardian.com to send you this newsletter. You can complete full registration at any time. For more information about how we use your data see our [Privacy Policy](#). We use Google reCaptcha to protect our website and the Google [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) apply.

after newsletter promotion

“Required redactions to protect victims take time but they will not stop these materials from being released.”

The department said before Christmas that federal prosecutors in Manhattan and the FBI had uncovered more than a [million more documents](#) not included in its initial review, and that it might need “a few more weeks” to comply with the law.

Ro Khanna, a Democratic California congressman, and Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican, said last month they were [considering filing an inherent contempt lawsuit](#) against Bondi in an effort to speed up the release.

Documents published in the first tranches of releases since 19 December have offered [some insight into Epstein’s operation](#), facilitated by his friend Ghislaine Maxwell, who is currently serving a 20-year sentence for child sex trafficking, but no major new revelations.

Marina Lacerda, a victim of Epstein who met him when she was 14, [spoke to the Guardian](#) last month after the first batch of papers was released. She said she wanted the British former royal Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, a close friend of Epstein and Maxwell, to be “brought to justice” in the US.

One of the papers detailed alleged efforts by Mountbatten-Windsor, once known as Prince Andrew, to get Maxwell to fix him up with “inappropriate friends” while she sought “friendly and discreet and fun” girls for him. Mountbatten-Windsor has denied any illegal behavior.

At this unsettling time

We hope you appreciated this article. Before you close this tab, we want to ask if you could support the Guardian at this crucial time for journalism in the US.

In his first presidency, Donald Trump called journalists the enemy; a year on from his second victory, it’s clear that this time around, he’s treating us like one.

From Hungary to Russia, authoritarian regimes have made silencing independent media one of their defining moves. Sometimes outright censorship isn’t even required to achieve this goal. In the United States, we have seen the administration apply various forms of pressure on news outlets in the year since Trump’s election. One of our great disappointments is how quickly some of the most storied US media organizations have folded when faced with the mere specter of hostility from the administration – long before their hand was forced.

While private news organizations can choose how to respond to this government’s threats, insults and lawsuits, public media has been powerless to stop the defunding of federally supported television and radio. This has been devastating for local and rural communities, who stand to

lose not only their primary source of local news and cultural programming, but health and public safety information, including emergency alerts. While we cannot make up for this loss, the Guardian is proud to make our fact-based work available for free to all, especially when the internet is increasingly flooded with slanted reporting, misinformation and algorithmic drivel.

Being free from billionaire and corporate ownership means the Guardian will never compromise our independence - but it also means we rely on support from readers who understand how essential it is to have news sources that are immune to intimidation from the powerful. We know our requests for support are not as welcome as our reporting, but without them, it's simple: our reporting wouldn't exist. Of course, we understand that some readers are not in a position to support us, and if that is you, we value your readership no less.

But if you are able, please support us today. All gifts are gratefully received, but a recurring contribution is most impactful, helping sustain our work throughout the year ahead (and among the great benefits, it means we'll show you fewer fundraising requests like this). It takes just 37 seconds to give. Thank you.

Support \$5/monthly

Recommended

Support \$15/monthly

Unlock **All-access digital** benefits:

- Far fewer asks for support
- Ad-free reading on all your devices
- Unlimited access to the premium Guardian app
- Regular dispatches from the newsroom to see the impact of your support
- Unlimited access to Feast, the Guardian recipe app

Support once from just \$1

Continue

Remind me in February



Explore more on these topics

- [Jeffrey Epstein](#)
- [Pam Bondi](#)
- [Trump administration](#)
- [Donald Trump](#)
- [US crime](#)
- [US politics](#)
- [news](#)

Share

[Reuse this content](#)

Most viewed

-



FBI raids home of Washington Post reporter in 'highly unusual and aggressive' move

-



Nan Goldin: The Ballad of Sexual Dependency review – an electrifying parade of sex, smoke and sullen silence

-



'I fell in love with him on the spot': Alan Rickman remembered, 10 years after his death

-



Live

US supreme court issues more decisions but does not rule on tariffs – live

-



Trump hits back at JP Morgan CEO's defence of Federal Reserve

Related stories



- US justice department reportedly reviewing more than 5m pages of Epstein files
31 Dec 2025



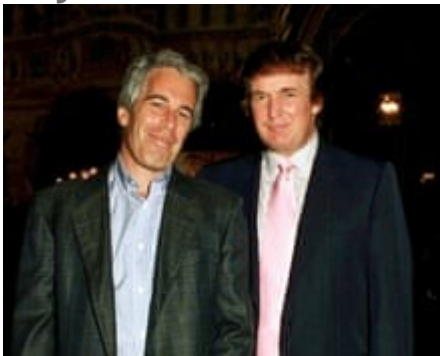
- US justice department releases heavily redacted cache of Jeffrey Epstein files
19 Dec 2025



- JD Vance to meet with top Trump officials to plot Epstein strategy – report
6 Aug 2025



- 'Get over it': some middle America Trump supporters remain unfazed over Epstein files tumult
27 Jul 2025



- Trump deflects Epstein questions as he arrives in Scotland for trade talks
25 Jul 2025



- Congress to subpoena Maxwell amid political firestorm over Epstein files
22 Jul 2025



- US House speaker Mike Johnson calls for release of Epstein files amid backlash
15 Jul 2025



- Republicans move to block Democratic effort to force release of Epstein files
15 Jul 2025

More from News



- **US foreign policy**
'Unacceptable' for Greenland not to be in US hands, says Trump
4h ago



Kristi Noem

Democratic lawmakers file articles of impeachment against Kristi Noem

31m ago



Iran

US military to withdraw some personnel from Middle East amid Iranian threats

6h ago



US

FBI raids home of Washington Post reporter in 'highly unusual and aggressive' move

2h ago



Trump administration

DoJ deemed it 'unnecessary' to conclude whether seizing Maduro violated international law, memo reveals

4h ago



Gaza

Gaza war leads to 41% fall in births prompting allegations of reproductive violence

1h ago



US politics live

US supreme court issues more decisions but does not rule on tariffs

23m ago



•

Business

Saks Global files for bankruptcy after takeover leads to financial collapse

4h ago



•

US television

Sex, drugs and sugar babies: first trailer for Euphoria season three drops

16m ago

Most viewed

- **Most viewed** Across the Guardian
- **Most viewed** in US news

Most viewed Across the Guardian

1. FBI raids home of Washington Post reporter in 'highly unusual and aggressive' move
2. Nan Goldin: The Ballad of Sexual Dependency review – an electrifying parade of sex, smoke and sullen silence
3. Suspended Michigan autoworker who heckled Trump gets outpouring of donations
- 4.

'I fell in love with him on the spot': Alan Rickman remembered, 10 years after his death

5.

Live

US supreme court issues more decisions but does not rule on tariffs - live

6.

Trump hits back at JP Morgan CEO's defence of Federal Reserve

7.

Why is Stephen A Smith blaming Renee Good for her own death?

8.

Claudette Colvin, US civil rights pioneer arrested for not giving up bus seat, dies aged 86

9.

UPenn faculty condemn Trump administration's demand for 'lists of Jews'

10.

Union leaders accuse Trump administration of 'shift toward white supremacy' with online posts

- **US news**
- [US politics](#)
- [World](#)
- [Climate crisis](#)
- [Middle East](#)
- [Ukraine](#)
- [US immigration](#)
- [Soccer](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Tech](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Wellness](#)
- [News](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Culture](#)
- [Lifestyle](#)

Original reporting and incisive analysis, direct from the Guardian every morning

Sign up for our email

- [About us](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Complaints & corrections](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Tip us off](#)
- [SecureDrop](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Cookie policy](#)
- [Tax strategy](#)
- [Terms & conditions](#)
- [All topics](#)
- [All writers](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Digital newspaper archive](#)
- [Bluesky](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Threads](#)
- [TikTok](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Advertise with us](#)
- [Guardian Labs](#)
- [Search jobs](#)
- [Work with us](#)
- [Accessibility settings](#)
- California resident - Do Not Sell or Share

Support the Guardian

Available for everyone, funded by readers

Support us

Back to top

© 2026 Guardian News & Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved. (dcr)